

# REVIEW.

Tuesday, April 28. 1713.

I was always my Opinion, That a Wise Man ought never to be ashame'd to acknowledge himself to be in the Wrong, or to beg Pardon when he is in a Mistake. This I have so often prov'd to be my Judgment, in Print, that you cannot approach me with making it my Practice. It is true, That we ought to consider well before we speak, and not offend, especially those who we ought not to incur any Offence to ; but as any Man may unwarily offend, for no Man is infallible, the Retreat an honest Man always makes in such a Case, is, by a frank and voluntary Acknowledgment, to make *L'Affaire Honourable* to the Parties Offended, and in the humblest manner possible, to ask their Pardon. If I should say, That I voluntarily, and of set purpose affronted and offended Her Majesty's Court of Justice, and my Lords, the Judges, in what I have written, I should add to my Offence, should say what is not true, and should load my self with a guilt of a kind which I abhor ; for I bear the greatest, and truest Veneration to the Office, and Authority of a Judge, that I can possibly express : But that I have unwarily, and for want of Circumpection offended, is very true ; and I do freely acknowledge the Displeasure of my Lord Chief Justice and the Court is very just ; and this I say most voluntarily, and of my own accord.

I esteem the Execution of the Law to be the Summum Substance of the Peoples Liberties ; and the Persons therefore, to whom that great Trust is committed, are, in my esteem so far Sacred, and ought not to be any way Insulted, or Offended : Nay, if they were to be brought before the Judges in a Foreign Nation, yet, as the Laws of that Country were committed to them, and I liv'd then under the Government of that Country, I would behave my self with Decency and Respect, to the Judges, in mere veneration to their Office ; much more here, where I have at the least Objection, either against the Laws themselves, or the Uprightness of the Persons, to whom judgment is committed.

For my Submission, therefore, to the Judges of England, whom I have unwarily offended, let no man Reproach me, since it is every Man's Duty

so to do — We see the Apostle Paul, when he return'd too warmly to one, whose Person he mistook, when he came to know he was the Judge, who had a right to Resent what he had said, he immediately beg'd Pardon, *I wist not that it was the high Priest* ; for it is written, *Thou shalt not revile the Ruler (or Judge) of thy People.*

For these Reasons, and many other, as soon as I perceiv'd my Mistake, in the Reviews lately written, on the Subject of my Prosecution, I presently wav'd all the Defence I might think to make of my Writings, (as of their being innocently, and unwarily done ; or of my meaning the Private Persons only, that had fallen upon me, &c.) for I saw I had wanted due Caution in explaining my self ; and that the uncertainty of my Meaning gave my Lord Chief Justice sufficient, and just Cause to think himself Affronted and ill Treated. Upon this, *as an honest Man, I say, ought to do*, I immediately, by my Petition to my Lord Chief Justice, acknowledg'd my self in the wrong ; and with all possible, and sincere Humility, ask'd his Lordship's Pardon ; and in a second Petition to the whole Court, did the like again : And I have here given the World a true Copy of both these Petitions, as well to give all possible Satisfaction to their Lordships, as to let every body see, that I am ready to make any Submissions, where I own my self in a Mistake.

How, *not justly only*, but Generously also, I have been used by their Lordships, upon these Submissions, I shall not be backward to let the World know ; and if I am at any time guilty of Reflections upon either, it must be when my Senses forsake me, as well as my Principles.

If any Man Insults me upon the Meanness of these things, *I condemn his Insult* ; for it is beneath no Man to submit himself to the just Magistracy of his Country, especially when he is in the wrong. We see Instances of this daily, before the two Houses of Parliament ; where it is esteem'd no Reproach for any Man to humble himself, when he has offended ; and I fear much for those Gentlemen, who think it below them to ask Pardon, *especially of just Authority*, when they have offended it ; Whether they would

would not treat their Maker in the same manner if they could? But I profess my self of another Opinion in both Cases, and therefore very freely and willingly publish my two Petitions aforesaid, as follows.

*To the Right Honourable Sir Thomas Parker, Kt.  
Lord Chief Justice of England.*

The Humble Petition of *Daniel de Foe*, of Newington, in the County of Middlesex, now a Prisoner in the Queen's-Bench,

*Humbly Sheweth,*  
**T**HAT Your Petitioner is extreamly afflicted in the two printed Papers, entitul'd, the Review; and for which Offence he stands committed, That as Your Prisoner assures Your Lordship, he did not foresee the just Displeasure of Your Lordship, so he is heartily sorry for it; and, avoiding all Excuses or Extenuations of the Fact, he throws himself upon the Goodness and Compassion of Your Lordship, in the humblest Manner possible, and with the lowest Submission asks Your Lordship's Pardon for the same: Humbly imploring Your Lordship, That his other unhappy Circumstances, such as a large Family, his private Affairs long in a perplexed Posture, and the publick Prosecutions which he is now under, may move Your Lordship to forgive his said Offence, which otherwise will be his utter Ruin and Undoing.

Your Petitioner therefore most humbly Prays Your Lordship's Pardon; and, That he may be discharged from his present Confinement, assuring Your Lordship of his Dutiful Behaviour to Your Lordship for the Future.

*And Your Petitioner shall ever Pray.*

*Daniel de Foe.*

*To the Right Honourable Sir Thomas Parker, Kt.  
Lord-Chief-Judge of England, and to the rest of the  
Judges of Her Majesty's Court of Queen's Bench.*

The Humble Petition of *Daniel de Foe*, Prisoner in the Queen's-Bench Prison,

*Humbly Sheweth,*  
**T**HAT Your Petitioner humbly, and without any Reserve, acknowledges the Justice of Your

Lordship's Displeasure at what he had written those Reviews, for which he stands committed, is sincerely sorry for having given Your Lordship Offence therein; and though he did not foresee the same, yet he is very far from excusing or extenuating the Fact upon that Account; but humbly throw himself upon Your Lordships Mercy, begging His Pardon of Your Lordships for the said Offence, in the humblest manner possible.

And whereas some Words have been printed another Review, which are also justly Offensive to Your Lordships, he humbly assures Your Lordship the same was actually printed and wrought off before Your Lordships Displeasure at the other Papers known: And he humbly assures Your Lordships, as he is heartily afflicted at having thus incurred Your Lordships Displeasure; so he will be careful to avoid the like for the future; and particularly, he will never take the Liberty to mention any thing in Publick which relates to Your Lordships Proceedings, in any respect whatsoever.

Wherefore Your Petitioner humbly Frays Your Lordships, that he may be discharged from present Confinement, without which, he and his numerous Family will be utterly ruin'd and undone.

*And Your Petitioner shall ever Pray, &c.*

*Daniel de Foe.*

There may be Objections by some, to the Manner of my Submissions; for my Part, all the Objections I make to them my self, is, that I think they are not full enough in the acknowledging part; and I could have made them more Compleat, I ought to have done it: Because the Lenity shewn me by the Lordships, when this resentment might have been much heavier upon me, even to my Ruin, Calls for very large and very open acknowledgments; therefore, as I have publish'd these Petitions, at their Lordships Command; so if I knew what to add as a voluntary Expiation for this Offence, It would be more to their Lordships Satisfaction, I should think my self bound to do it, and I do take the Liberty to say, that this is not all the Acknowledgment I purpose to make of it: But shall let the World see I am sensible, both of the Offence and my Duty, even when the hands of Justice are taken